

Message Text

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22

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 SSO-00 ISO-00 /016 W

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O R 310847Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4340

INFO FAA BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 1752

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (GARBLED TEXT)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, SO

SUBJECT: AIRCRAFT CLEARANCES

REF: MOGADISCIO 1741

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. FOR THE RECORD, THE FOLLOWING IS AN INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF A MEMORANDUM GRANTING CLEARANCE TO WORLD AIRWAYS FOR HADJ FLIGHTS. MEMORANDUM IS ADDRESSED TO THE CHIEFS OF AIRPORT AT MOGADISCIO AND HARGEISA, THE COMMANDANT OF THE SOMALI AIR FORCE, THE BUREAU OF MOBILIZATION (PRESUMABLY OF THE SOMALI REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALIST PARTY) AND THE U.S. EMBASSY.

BEGIN TEXT: WE FORWARD HERewith THE OVERFLIGHT PROGRAM THAT HAS BEEN REQUESTED BY THE ABOVE (WORLD) AIRWAYS COMPANY. THIS SCHEDULE POINTS OUT THE TIME(S) OF OVERFLIGHT AND THE ROUTE. THEREFORE YOU ARE REQUESTED TO NOTIFY ALL RESPONSIBLE PARTIES THAT WORLD AIRWAYS HAS PERMISSION TO OVERFLY. THEY ALSO HAVE PERMISSION TO LAND IN THE EVENT OF DISTRESS. END TEXT.

BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL

2. EMBASSY SOUGHT AND RECEIVED WRITTEN NOTICE OF CLEARANCE

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BECAUSE NO LESS THAN THREE BRITISH-FLAG CHARTER FLIGHTS HAVE

BEEN FORCED DOWN OVER SOMALIA IN PAST TWO MONTHS DESPITE FACT THEY HAD VERBAL PERMISSION TO OVERFLY. ACCORDING TO BRITISH CONSUL, LATEST SUCH FLIGHT WAS FORCED TO LAND IN HARGEISA OCTOBER 30. SOMALIS HAVE ALLEGED WITH RESPECT TO THIS FLIGHT THAT THE AIRCRAFT WAS NOT ON THE ROUTE FOR WHICH IT HAD BEEN CLEARED. WHILE WE CANNOT JUDGE THE VALIDITY OF THIS ALLEGATION, WE DO KNOW THAT IN ONE OTHER INSTANCE WHERE A FLIGHT WAS FORCED TO LAND IN HARGEISA THE INCIDENT STEMMED FROM DIRECTOR OF CIVIL AVIATION'S FAILURE TO ADVISE APPROPRIATE SOMALI AUTHORITIES THAT FLIGHT CLEARANCE HAD BEEN GRANTED. IN ADDITION TO INCONVENIENCE CAUSED BY FORCED LANDINGS IN HARGEISA, CARRIERS ALSO INCUR A SIGNIFICANT FINANCIAL BURDEN BECAUSE THE AIRPORT THERE HAS NO EQUIPMENT TO FIRE-UP JET ENGINES. THUS THE CARRIER IS REQUIRED TO FLY IN A STARTER UNIT FROM A LOCATION AT LEAST HUNDREDS OF MILES AWAY.

3. DEPARTMENT SHOULD ADVISE WORLD AIRWAYS OF AS MUCH OF THE FOREGOING AS IT DEEMS APPROPRIATE. GIVEN THE PRESENT POOR STATE OF OUR RELATIONS WITH THE GSDR AND INACCESSIBILITY (FOR US, AT LEAST) OF HARGEISA, THE EMBASSY COULD BE OF VERY LITTLE ASSISTANCE SHOULD A WORLD AIRWAYS FLIGHT BE FORCED DOWN THERE. JACOBS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LANDING RIGHTS, FLIGHT CLEARANCES, SUPPLEMENTAL AIRLINES, AIR ROUTES, AIR SCHEDULES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MOGADI01752
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760408-0451, D760406-0321
From: MOGADISCIO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976101/aaaaaacv.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MOGADISCIO 1741
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 JUN 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <28 JUL 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AIRCRAFT CLEARANCES
TAGS: EAIR, OCLR, SO, WORLD AIRWAYS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006